

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **April 5, 2004** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-21. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Enoki et al. (USPN 5,873,085, hereinafter “Enoki”) in view of Shahabuddin et al. (USPub 2002/0143945, hereinafter “Shahabuddin:”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Enoki in view of Shahabuddin. Applicant respectfully points out that Enoki teaches a virtual-file management system for **sharing file services** provided by a plurality of servers to a plurality of terminals (see Enoki, col. 3, lines 5-8). Additionally, Applicant respectfully points out that Shahabuddin teaches a system for optimal resource allocation in a hosting environment to **provide quality-of-service** based on utilization patterns (see Shahabuddin, paragraph [0048]).

In contrast, the present invention is directed to providing virtual-server identifiers for files in a virtual-server environment to provide **access control** for the files such that a given virtual-server can access only those files with a matching virtual server identifier (see page 8, line 25 to page 9, line 8 of the instant application). There is no suggestion within Enoki or Shahabuddin, either separately or in concert, to provide virtual-server identifiers for files in a virtual-server environment. This is beneficial because it provides access control for the files such that a given virtual-server can access only those files with a matching virtual server identifier.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15 to clarify that the present invention provides virtual-server identifiers for files in a virtual-server environment to provide access control for the files such that a given virtual-server can access only those files with a matching virtual server identifier. These amendments find support on page 8, line 25 to page 9, line 8 of the instant

application. Dependent claims 2, 9, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice. Dependent claims 3-4, 10-11, and 17-18 have been amended to correct antecedent basis.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, and 15 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3-7, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-14, which depend upon claim 8, and claims 17-21, which depend upon claim 15 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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